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alkyloxy, alkenyloxy, aralkyloxy, aryloxy, alkylsulfinyl,
alkylsulfonyl, aralkylsulfinyl, aralkylsulfonyl, arylsulfinyl,
arylsulfonyl, carbamoyl, carbamoyloxy, imino-lower-alkyl, imino-
lower-alkylamino, acyloxy, silyloxy, heterocyclic,
heterocyclic⁻thio, heterocyclic-oxy, acyl, carboxyl,
alkyloxycarbonyl, alkenyloxycarbonyl, aralkyloxycarbonyl,
aryloxycarbonyl, thiocarboxyl, alkylthiocarbonyl,
alkenylthiocarbonyl, aralkylthiocarbonyl, arylthiocarbonyl and a
substituted or unsubstituted aminocarbonyl group.

Claim 16, line 3: change "comprises" to --further comprising
the steps of--

line 4; change "metal base" to --alkali metal
hydride--

Claim 18, line 2; delete "general"

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action of January 12, 1999,
applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of
the claims in their amended form.

By this amendment, applicants have withdrawn claim 1 from
their application and made some minor changes to claims 16 and 18.

Applicants have also amended claim 15 to overcome the
objections noted by the Examiner on pages 2-4 of the Office

Action. The inadvertent description of the R_3 group and its substituents has been corrected. The second occurrence of R_3 has been amended to R_2 . Any inconvenience to the Examiner is sincerely regretted.

With respect to numbered paragraph 3 at the top of page 3 of the Office Action, the description of the terms for X and Y starting with "carboxyl" and ending with "aminocarbonyl groups" are well grounded by the description in applicants' specification at page 2, lines 13 to 15, with "carbonyl" and "thiocarboxyl" being particularly supported by the corresponding descriptions "unsubstituted ester group" and "unsubstituted thioester group" at lines 14 to 15.

Regarding numbered paragraph 4 of the Action, it is respectfully submitted that these exemplified substituents are supported by the specific descriptions given in the originally filed specification at page 23, lines 10 to 17.

With respect to the omission of the radical list for X and Y, as noted in numbered paragraph 5 of the Action, claim 15 has been amended to include the groups from the second paragraph on page 3 of applicants' amendment dated December 31, 1997, in parent application Serial No. 08/797,851.

Claim 15 as amended now indicates that the copper salts are salts of aliphatic or aromatic carboxylic acids.

Applicants again request reconsideration with respect to the use of the term "a mixture of zinc with at least one of said copper compounds". It is respectfully submitted that the use of the term in question is justified in light of the specific descriptions given in the originally filed specification, at page 8, lines 4 to 18, as well as the mixture of zinc with the cuprous bromide complex utilized in Example 9 appearing at pages 35 and 36, which evidently eliminate the need for ordinary skill in the art to carry out unduly excessive trials to find the proper choice of such combinations.

The term "general" has been deleted from claim 18 and "metal base" in claim 16 further defined as an "alkali metal hydride".

Finally, claim 16 was amended to employ the language suggested by the Examiner to make the claim properly dependent on claim 15.

In view of the amendments to the claims, it is submitted that they are in compliance with the requirements of 35USC112, first and second paragraphs. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

For each of the foregoing reasons, applicants submit that the claims in their amended form are in condition for allowance.

Early, favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BURGESS, RYAN AND WAYNE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington,

D. C. 20231, on July 12, 1999

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Date: July 12, 1999

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